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methods. The channel segments and multiple directions of arc travel tend to reduce the voltage required to start the lamp. --

In the Claims

✓ Please cancel claims 1-35 without disclaimer or prejudice to the filing of one or more continuation or divisional applications based on the subject matter of these claims.

✓ Please add the following new claims 36-59:

36. (New) A lamp comprising:

an enclosure having a channel defined therein, said channel comprising a plurality of channel segments configured in series, wherein each of said channel segments in said series of channel segments has at least two ends;

a plurality of electrodes, wherein at least one electrode is positioned at each said end of each said channel segment, wherein each of said channel segments is configured to emit light in response to an activation voltage being applied across its electrodes, and wherein a voltage source associated with each of said electrodes is configured to produce an activation voltage which alternates in polarity along said series of channel segments;

wherein at least one of said channel segments shares a first common electrode area with a first channel segment and a second common electrode area with a second channel segment, and wherein a first common electrode is positioned substantially within said first common electrode area and a second common electrode is positioned substantially within said second electrode area.

37. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said enclosure includes an interior wall defining said channel.

38. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein at least a portion of said enclosure is coated with a reflective material.

39. (New) A lamp according to claim 38, wherein said reflective material comprises at least one of aluminum and ceramic.

40. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said enclosure contains a fluorescent material.

41. (New) A lamp according to claim 40, wherein said fluorescent material is applied as a coating to at least a portion of an interior surface of said enclosure.

42. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said enclosure includes a lid, and wherein said lid is at least partially coated with a fluorescent material.

43. (New) A lamp according to claim 40, wherein said fluorescent material comprises a rare-earth phosphor.

44. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said channel includes an activation material.

45. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said activation material comprises an ultraviolet emissive material.

46. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said channel is serpentine.

47. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein the lamp is a flat lamp.

48. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein at least a portion of said channel has an asymmetrical cross-section.

49. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said each of said electrodes comprises a filament wire.

50. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said voltage source comprises an AC voltage source.

51. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said voltage source comprises a DC voltage source.

52. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein each of said channel segments are substantially equal in length.

53. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said interior walls are flared at each end to increase light uniformity.

54. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said voltage sources are configured to produce voltages at said electrodes which alternate from positive to negative along said series of channel segments.

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cond.* 55. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said channel comprises a series of n conjoined channel segments, where n is greater than two.

56. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein at least two of said channel segments are configured in parallel.

57. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, wherein said channel comprises n conjoined channel segments configured along m parallel paths, wherein n is greater than two, and m is greater than one.

58. (New) A lamp according to claim 36, further including a semi-transparent layer applied to at least a portion of said enclosure to block radiation of a predetermined wavelength.

59. (New) A lamp according to claim 58, wherein said radiation comprises ultraviolet radiation.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 7, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-35. The present Amendment cancels claims 1-35 without disclaimer and adds new claims 36-59 (one independent claim, twenty-four claims total). No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.